

DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 BY: ☐ COMPLAINT ☐ INFORMATION ☒ INDICTMENT
☐ SUPERSEDING
OFFENSE CHARGED
 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy To Defraud The United States;
 18 U.S.C. § 545 - Smuggling Into The United States;
 15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2615 - Toxic Substances Control Act;
 49 U.S.C. § 5124 - Hazardous Materials Transportation Act;

☐ Petty
☐ Minor
☐ Misdemeanor
☒ Felony
PENALTY:

Please see attachment.

Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND DIVISION

DEFENDANT - U.S.

PEIWEN ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC, INC.

DISTRICT COURT NUMBER

PROCEEDING

Name of Complainant Agency, or Person (& Title, if any)

Environmental Protection Agency

☐ person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court, give name of court

☐ this person/proceeding is transferred from another district per (circle one) FRCrp 20, 21, or 40. Show District

☐ this is a reprosecution of charges previously dismissed which were dismissed on motion of:

☐ U.S. ATTORNEY ☐ DEFENSE

SHOW DOCKET NO.

☐ this prosecution relates to a pending case involving this same defendant

MAGISTRATE CASE NO.

☐ prior proceedings or appearance(s) before U.S. Magistrate regarding this defendant were recorded under

Name and Office of Person

Furnishing Information on this form Brian J. Stretch

☒ U.S. Attorney ☐ Other U.S. Agency

Name of Assistant U.S. Attorney (if assigned)

S. Waqar Hasib

DEFENDANT**IS NOT IN CUSTODY**

Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.

 1) ☒ If not detained give date any prior summons was served on above charges
2) ☐ Is a Fugitive3) ☐ Is on Bail or Release from (show District)**IS IN CUSTODY**4) ☐ On this charge5) ☐ On another conviction
☐ Federal ☐ State
6) ☐ Awaiting trial on other charges

If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution

 Has detainer been filed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" give date filed

DATE OF ARREST

Month/Day/Year

Or... if Arresting Agency & Warrant were not

DATE TRANSFERRED TO U.S. CUSTODY

Month/Day/Year

☐ This report amends AO 257 previously submitted
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS**PROCESS:**
☐ SUMMONS ☐ NO PROCESS* ☒ WARRANT

Bail Amount: _____

If Summons, complete following:

☐ Arraignment ☐ Initial Appearance

Defendant Address:

* Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment

Date/Time: _____ Before Judge: _____

Comments:

ATTACHMENT TO PENALTY SHEET

PEIWEN ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC, INC.

<u>Count</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Maximum Penalty</u>
1	18 U.S.C. § 371 – Conspiracy To Defraud The United States	5 years in prison 3 years supervised release \$250,000 fine \$100 special assessment
2	18 U.S.C. § 545 – Smuggling Into The United States	20 years in prison 3 years supervised release \$250,000 fine \$100 special assessment
3, 11	15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2615 – Toxic Substances Control Act	Up to 1 year in prison Up to 1 year supervised release Up to \$50,000 for each day of violation \$25 special assessment for ZHOU \$125 special assessment for AK SCIENTIFIC
4 through 10	49 U.S.C. § 5124 – Hazardous Materials Transportation Act	5 years in prison 3 years supervised release \$250,000 fine \$100 special assessment

United States District Court

FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VENUE: OAKLAND

FILED
2017 FEB 16 P 2:09
SUSAN Y. BOONG
CLERK, US DISTRICT COURT
NO. DIST. OF CA.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

V.

CR17-1191

JD

PEIWEN ZHOU and
AK SCIENTIFIC, INC.

DEFENDANT(S).

INDICTMENT

18 U.S.C. § 371 – Conspiracy To Defraud The United States;
18 U.S.C. § 545 – Smuggling Into The United States;
15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2615 – Toxic Substances Control Act;
49 U.S.C. § 5124 – Hazardous Materials Transportation Act;
18 U.S.C. § 2 – Aiding and Abetting

A true bill.

Kam Williams

Foreman

Filed in open court this 16 day of

February 2017

[Signature]

Clerk

Laurel Beeler

United States Magistrate Judge

[Signature]

Bail, \$

*no bail warrant for Peiwen Zhou
no process as to AK Scientific*

1 BRIAN J. STRETCH (CABN 163973)
2 United States Attorney

FILED
2017 FEB 16 P 2:09
SUSAN Y. SOONG
CLERK, US DISTRICT COURT
NO. DIST. OF CA.

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 OAKLAND DIVISION

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 PEIWEN ZHOU and
15 AK SCIENTIFIC, INC.,

16 Defendants.

11 CR17 91
12) CASE NO.

13) VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 371 – Conspiracy To
14) Defraud The United States; 18 U.S.C. § 545 –
15) Smuggling Into The United States; 15 U.S.C. §§ 2614
16) and 2615 – Toxic Substances Control Act; 49 U.S.C.
17) § 5124 – Hazardous Materials Transportation Act; 18
18) U.S.C. § 2 – Aiding and Abetting

17) OAKLAND VENUE

19 INDICTMENT

20 The Grand Jury charges:

21 INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

22 At all times relevant to this Indictment:

23 PEIWEN ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC, INC.

24 1. AK SCIENTIFIC, INC. (herein “AK SCIENTIFIC”), was incorporated on June 23, 2004,
25 and began operating in approximately 2006. AK SCIENTIFIC was involved in the business of selling
26 research and specialty chemicals. The company was initially located in Mountain View, California. In
27 approximately 2010, the company relocated to Union City, California.

1 2. PEIWEN ZHOU (herein "ZHOU") was AK SCIENTIFIC's founder, owner, and chief
2 executive officer. ZHOU received a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1998. After founding AK SCIENTIFIC,
3 ZHOU employed between 4 and 50 other people in various capacities, including shipping and receiving.

4 3. AK SCIENTIFIC purchased chemicals from other chemical supply companies. Some of
5 AK SCIENTIFIC's suppliers were located internationally, in the People's Republic of China, among
6 other places. AK SCIENTIFIC sold chemicals from its inventory to customers. AK SCIENTIFIC's
7 customers included universities, research laboratories, and other entities. Some of AK SCIENTIFIC's
8 customers were located domestically, including in the San Francisco Bay Area. Other AK SCIENTIFIC
9 customers were located internationally, in South Korea, Poland, India and New Zealand, among other
10 places.

11 4. AK SCIENTIFIC used common carrier companies to obtain chemicals from its suppliers,
12 and to deliver chemicals to its customers. AK SCIENTIFIC typically sent and received these chemicals
13 by both air and ground delivery.

14 The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act

15 5. The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (herein "HMTA") was enacted by Congress
16 to protect the public from the risks to life, property, and the environment that are inherent in the
17 transportation of hazardous materials in commerce. 49 U.S.C. § 5101. Under the HMTA, a "hazardous
18 material" means any substance or material that the Secretary of the Department of Transportation
19 designates as hazardous material, including explosive, flammable or combustible liquid, solid, or gas, or
20 toxic or corrosive material. 49 U.S.C. §§ 5102(2), 5103(a).

21 6. The HMTA provides the Secretary of Transportation with the authority to prescribe
22 regulations for the safe transportation of hazardous materials in intrastate, interstate, and foreign
23 commerce. 49 U.S.C. § 5103(b).

24 7. Pursuant to this authority, the Secretary of Transportation has promulgated Hazardous
25 Material Regulations (HMRs), which appear at 49 C.F.R., Parts 171-180. The HMRs set forth
26 requirements for the safe and secure transportation in commerce of materials designated as hazardous
27 materials, and apply to each person who performs, or causes to be performed, functions related to the
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1 transportation of such materials. 49 C.F.R. §§ 171.1 and 171.8.

2 8. The HMRs contain a Hazardous Materials Table, which lists hazardous materials
3 descriptions, proper hazardous materials shipping names, hazard classes, materials identification
4 numbers (also known as United Nations numbers or UN numbers), packing group numbers, label codes,
5 and other pertinent information. 49 C.F.R. § 172.101.

6 9. Among other things, the HMRs require any person who offers for transportation in
7 commerce a hazardous material designated in the Hazardous Materials Table to:

8 a. Provide a shipping paper that sets forth the proper shipping name prescribed for
9 the hazardous materials, the hazard classes, the material identification numbers, the packing
10 group numbers, and the total quantity of the hazardous materials. 49 C.F.R. §§ 172.201-172.203.

11 b. Mark the package with the proper shipping name, identification number, and
12 technical names, on a label with sharply contrasting color. 49 C.F.R. §§ 172.301 (general
13 marking requirements for non-bulk packages) and 172.304 (marking requirements).

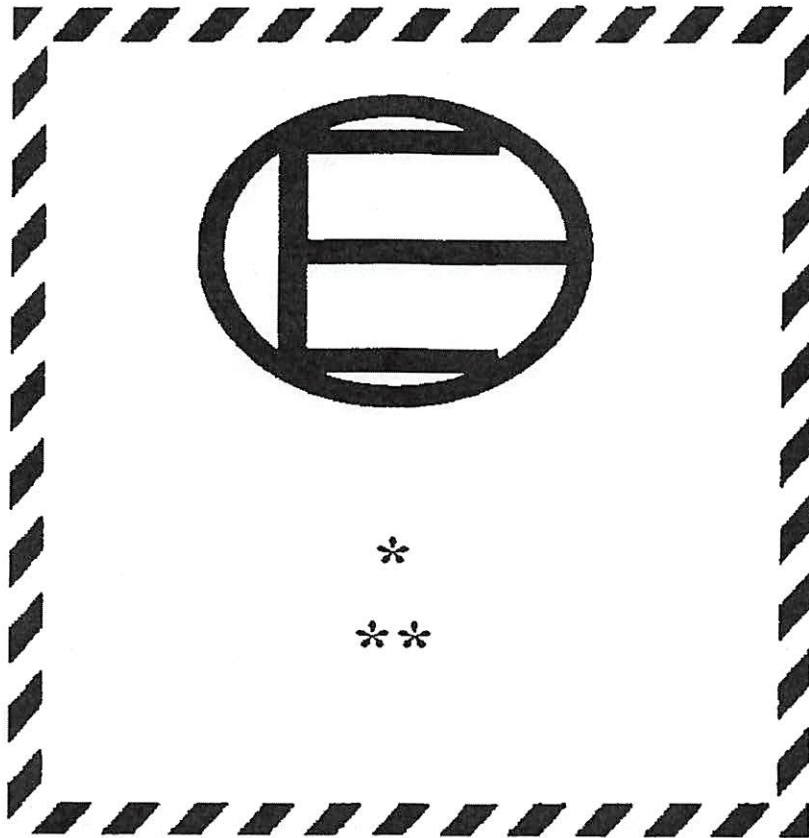
14 c. Label the package with specified labels designated in the regulations. 49 C.F.R.
15 §§ 172.400, 172.402, 172.407, and 172.411-172.448.

16 d. Provide emergency response information that is immediately available for use at
17 all times the hazardous material is present. 49 C.F.R. §§ 172.600 and 172.602.

18 e. Ensure that each employee handling hazardous materials is trained to comply with
19 the HMRs that apply to that employee's particular job functions, including training on measures
20 to protect the employee from the dangers associated with hazardous materials to which they may
21 be exposed in the workplace, and training on measures and procedures for avoiding accidents.
22 49 C.F.R. §§ 172.700-172.704.

23 10. The HMRs allow certain hazardous materials to be shipped in very small quantities,
24 known as "excepted quantities." 49 C.F.R. § 173.4a. Typically, in order to qualify as an excepted
25 quantity, a package must contain no more than 30 grams of a hazardous material (though some
26 particularly dangerous substances can only be sent in quantities of no more than 1 gram in order to
27 qualify as an excepted quantity). A package that contains hazardous materials in these small, "excepted
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quantities” typically will not be subject to many of the shipping, marking, labeling, and training regulations described above that would otherwise apply if the package contained larger quantities of hazardous materials. However, even when shipped in excepted quantities, packages must be durably and legibly marked with the following marking:



with the “*” replaced by the primary hazard class of the hazardous materials contained in the package, and the “***” replaced by the name of the shipper or consignee, if not shown elsewhere on the package. 49 C.F.R. § 173.4a(g).

11. The Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is delegated authority under the regulations to conduct inspections of hazardous materials and to conduct enforcement activity involving the inspecting of labels and packaging. 49 C.F.R. §§ 107.301, 107.303, and 107.305. Intentionally mislabeling packages that contain hazardous materials interferes with this lawful government function, among others.

The Toxic Substances Control Act

12. The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) was enacted after Congress found that there were some chemicals whose manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce, use or disposal presented an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. 15 U.S.C. § 2601(a)(2). Under TSCA, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to maintain an inventory (herein “the TSCA Inventory”) of each “chemical substance” which is manufactured or processed in the United States. 15 U.S.C. § 2607(b). The TSCA Inventory currently lists approximately 85,000 chemicals and is published online and elsewhere by the EPA. *See generally* <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-inventory>; 40 C.F.R. Part 710.

13. Under TSCA, the EPA Administrator is authorized to issue “significant new use rules,” governing the use of particular chemical substances, if the manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce, use, or disposal of such substances presents or may present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. 15 U.S.C. § 2604(b)(4)(A).

14. The EPA Administrator has issued a significant new use rule for the chemical substance known as triphosgene, also known as methanol, trichloro-, carbonate (2:1), also known as bis(trichloromethyl) carbonate, or BTC. This rule requires any container of triphosgene in the workplace to bear the following statements on the container label:

This substance may cause: skin irritation
This substance may cause: respiratory complications
This substance may cause: central nervous system effects
This substance may cause: cancer
When using this substance: avoid skin contact
When using this substance: avoid breathing substance
When using this substance: avoid ingestion
This substance may react to form phosgene gas.
When using this substance, handle with extreme caution.

40 C.F.R. § 721.4880(a)(2)(i). A failure to ensure that each container of triphosgene in the workplace is labeled with these statements is a significant new use of triphosgene requiring notification to the EPA. 15 U.S.C. § 2604(a)(1); 40 C.F.R. § 721.72(b).

15. The EPA has authority under the regulations to enjoin the manufacture, import or processing of a chemical substance such as triphosgene in violation of any significant new use rules, to

1 seize any such chemical substances, and to take other appropriate actions. 40 C.F.R. § 721.35. A failure
2 to notify the EPA that a chemical substance such as triphosgene is being used for a significant new use
3 interferes this lawful government function, among others.

4 16. Under TSCA, any person who imports certain chemical substances listed in the TSCA
5 Inventory is required to file a certification with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) stating that the
6 chemical shipment is either subject to TSCA and complies with it, or is not subject to TSCA. 19 C.F.R.
7 § 12.121(a). This certification is known as a TSCA Import Certification. In addition, TSCA delegates
8 authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to impose tariffs on chemical substances imported into the
9 United States that are listed in the TSCA Inventory. 15 U.S.C. § 2612. These tariffs are imposed in
10 accordance with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C.
11 § 1202. Failure to file a TSCA certification and failure to identify an import as containing a chemical
12 substance listed on the TSCA inventory constitutes a violation of the Tariff Act. 19 U.S.C. § 1592(a).

13 17. Under TSCA, any person who exports or intends to export certain chemical substances
14 listed in the TSCA Inventory is required to notify the EPA of such export. 15 U.S.C. § 2611(b); 40
15 C.F.R. § 707.60. This notification is known as a TSCA Section 12(b) notice.

16 18. Triphosgene is a chemical for which a TSCA Section 12(b) notice is required prior to or
17 upon export. 15 U.S.C. § 2611(b); 40 C.F.R. § 721.20; 40 C.F.R. § 721.4880.

18 19. Upon receipt of a TSCA Section 12(b) notice of export, the EPA is required under the
19 regulations to notify the receiving country's government within 5 business days of the identity of the
20 chemical being shipped, and the risks of injury it may pose to health or the environment. 40 C.F.R.
21 § 707.70. Failure to file a TSCA Section 12(b) notice interferes with this lawful government function,
22 among others.

23
24 COUNT ONE: 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Defraud the United States

25 20. The factual allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 19 above are re-alleged and
26 incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

27 21. Starting on an unknown date, but no later than approximately 2008, and continuing
28

1 through on or about February 3, 2016, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the
2 defendants,

3 PEIWEN ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC,
4 together with other employees at AK SCIENTIFIC and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury,
5 knowingly and willfully conspired to defraud the United States and agencies thereof, by obstructing the
6 lawful functions of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enforce the Toxic
7 Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the lawful functions of the United States Department of
8 Transportation (DOT) to enforce the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (HMTA), by deceitful and
9 dishonest means.

10 MANNER AND MEANS

11 22. Defendants ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC and other individuals engaged in a conspiracy
12 to obstruct the lawful functions of the EPA and the DOT by and through the following manners and
13 means, among others:

14 a. ZHOU instructed employees in AK SCIENTIFIC's purchasing and receiving
15 department to purchase chemicals, including chemicals listed on the TSCA Inventory, from
16 suppliers in China using false names for the chemicals, thereby avoiding TSCA requirements.

17 b. ZHOU instructed employees in AK SCIENTIFIC's shipping department
18 to deliberately ship hazardous materials listed in the HMTA as non-hazardous materials, so as to
19 avoid HMTA requirements.

20 c. ZHOU instructed employees in AK SCIENTIFIC's shipping department to ship
21 hazardous materials as "excepted quantity" shipments, even though the shipments contained
22 quantities greater than allowed under the HMTA "excepted quantity" rules.

23 OVERT ACTS

24 23. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to carry out the objects of the conspiracy, the
25 following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Northern District of California and
26 elsewhere:

27 a. On or about September 19, 2012, Company #1 shipped a package from Shanghai,
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1 China, to employees at AK SCIENTIFIC. The package contained 25 kilograms of 1,2-
2 dibromoethane, a hazardous material regulated by the HMTA and a chemical substance
3 regulated by the TSCA Inventory. The shipping papers attached to the package falsely described
4 the contents as "Bema Inkjet Ink(Flush)."

5 b. On or about November 11, 2014, employees at AK SCIENTIFIC shipped a
6 package to Company #2 in Gyeonggi-do, South Korea. The package contained triphosgene, a
7 hazardous material regulated by the HMTA and a chemical substance regulated by the TSCA
8 Inventory. The shipping papers that AK SCIENTIFIC employees attached to the package
9 described the contents as "laboratory chemical reagent for laboratory research," and did not
10 declare any hazardous materials.

11 c. On or about September 26, 2014, employees at AK SCIENTIFIC shipped
12 packages to Company #3 in Wellington, New Zealand. The packages contained imidazole, 4-
13 (Trifluoromethyl) aniline, and copper sulfate, anhydrous, which are all hazardous materials
14 regulated by the HMTA. The hazardous materials were all shipped in quantities greater than 30
15 grams. The packages did not include shipping papers, labeling, marking, or emergency response
16 information as required under HMTA.

17 d. On or about January 8, 2015, ZHOU sent a letter to the Federal Aviation
18 Administration claiming that the hazardous materials described above that AK SCIENTIFIC
19 shipped to Company #3 in New Zealand were all under 30 grams and therefore were shipped as
20 "excepted quantities."

21 e. On or about January 28, 2016, employees at AK SCIENTIFIC attempted to ship a
22 package to Company #4 in Calcutta, India. The package contained 5 grams of 4-
23 aminopropiophenone, a hazardous material regulated by the HMTA and a chemical substance
24 regulated by the TSCA Inventory. The shipping papers that AK SCIENTIFIC employees
25 attached to the package described the contents as "laboratory chemical reagent for research, non-
26 hazardous." The package did not include the marking described above in paragraph 10,
27 indicating that it contained an "excepted quantity" of hazardous materials.
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1 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

2
3 COUNT TWO: 18 U.S.C. § 545 – Smuggling into the United States

4 24. The factual allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 4 and 12 through 19, above, are
5 re-alleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

6 25. On or about September 19, 2012, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the
7 defendants,

8 PEIWEN ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC,
9 fraudulently and knowingly imported and brought into the United States merchandise, to wit: 25
10 kilograms of 1,2-dibromoethane, contrary to the law of the United States, by claiming said merchandise
11 to be “Bema Inkjet Ink(Flush),” and failing to properly complete a TSCA Import Certification, in
12 violation of the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. §§ 1202, 1592(a), and 19 C.F.R. § 12.121.

13 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 545 and 2.
14

15 COUNT THREE: 15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2615 - Toxic Substances Control Act

16 26. The factual allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 4 and 12 through 19, above, are
17 re-alleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

18 27. On or about November 11, 2014, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the
19 defendants,

20 PEIWEN ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC,
21 knowingly and willfully failed and refused to comply with a requirement and rule promulgated under the
22 Toxic Substances Control Act, to wit, the requirement to file a TSCA Section 12(b) notice for the export
23 of triphosgene, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 2611(b) and 40 C.F.R. §§ 721.20 and 721.4880.

24 All in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Sections 2614 and 2615, and Title 18, United
25 States Code, Section 2.
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27
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1 COUNTS FOUR THROUGH TEN: 49 U.S.C. 5124(a) – Hazardous Materials Transportation Act

2 28. The factual allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 11 above are re-alleged and
3 incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

4 29. On or about the dates set forth in the table below, in the Northern District of California,
5 the defendants,

6 PEIWEN ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC,
7 willfully and recklessly offered for transportation the hazardous materials set forth in the table below,
8 without labeling the packages as containing hazardous materials, in violation of 49 C.F.R. § 172.400:

COUNT	DATE OFFERED FOR TRANSPORT	HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SHIPPED
4	July 3, 2014	1,2-dibromoethane
5	March 27, 2015	N-Bromosuccinimide
6	August 26, 2015	P-toluenesulfonyl cyanide
7	August 26, 2015	3-fluorophenylacetylene
8	August 26, 2015	3,3-dimethylcyclohexanone
9	September 21, 2015	Di-tert-butyl dicarbonate
10	January 28, 2016	4'-aminopropiophenone

17 All in violation of Title 49, United States Code, Section 5124(a) and Title 18, United States
18 Code, Section 2.

19 COUNT ELEVEN: 15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2615 - Toxic Substances Control Act

20 30. The factual allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 4 and 12 through 19, above, are
21 re-alleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

22 31. On or about February 3, 2016, in the Northern District of California, the defendants,
23 PEIWEN ZHOU and AK SCIENTIFIC,
24 knowingly and willfully failed and refused to comply with a rule promulgated under the Toxic
25 Substances Control Act, to wit, the rule set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 721.4880(a)(2)(i) requiring that any
26 container of triphosgene in the workplace bear required statements on the container label as described
27 above in paragraph 14, said failure and refusal constituting a significant new use of triphosgene that
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1 required submittal of a notification to EPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2604(a)(1).

2 All in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Sections 2614 and 2615, and Title 18, United
3 States Code, Section 2.

4 DATED:

A TRUE BILL.

5 2/16/17
6

Kara Williams
FOREPERSON

8 BRIAN J. STRETCH
9 United States Attorney

10 Elin Dwyer, for
11 BARBARA J. VALLIERE
12 Chief, Criminal Division

13 (Approved as to form: SEB)
14 fw AUSA S. WAQAR HASIB
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